



Alberta Darling

Wisconsin State Senator

Member, Joint Committee on Finance

Thank you Chairman Lehman and Members of the Senate Committee on Education for allowing me to testify in favor of Senate Bill 250.

I have introduced this bill at the request of the K-8 Fox Point-Bayside School District. Under our current Open Enrollment laws, K-8 School Districts and Union High School Districts are treated as though they have no affiliation with each other. Resident and Chapter 220 students who graduate from Bayside Middle School, for instance, are given the choice to enroll at Nicolet UHS. In the case of Open Enrollment students who graduate from Bayside Middle School's eighth grade, they must apply for limited Open Enrollment seats at Nicolet UHS and compete with students from neighboring K-12 districts.

In a K-12 District, students participating in the Open Enrollment program at the end of their eighth grade year are given preferential treatment for available Open Enrollment seats at the high school within the District they are attending. The same should be true for K-8 students.

K-8 School Districts work very closely with their Union High School District on curriculum, shared services and coordinated ventures. K-8 District students participate with their peers in a curricular program that is designed to prepare them for their next step in their academic career, which for most students is the Union High School. In addition, students develop close peer relationships during their years in K-8 schools which they want to carry with them as they move into their high school setting.

SB 250 would modify current law to give Open Enrollment students from K-8 Districts status in their affiliated UHS School District as if they were an applicant who is already attending school within that affiliated UHS School District. This would give Open Enrollment students from K-8 Districts preference to enter the UHS School District if the UHS School District determines that there are Open Enrollment seats available.

SB 250 is a simple, commonsense reform that fixes a glitch in our statutes.

Capitol Office:

P.O. Box 7882
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882
Phone: 608-266-5830
Fax: 608-267-0588

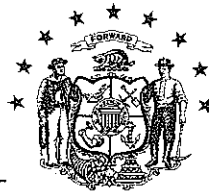
Toll-free: 1-800-863-1113

Email: sen.darling@legis.wisconsin.gov

Web page: www.legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/sen08/news/

District Office:

N88 W16621 Appleton Avenue, Suite 200
Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin 53051
Phone: 262-250-9440
Fax: 262-250-8510



SANDY PASCH

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Senate Bill 250

Testimony of Representative Sandy Pasch

Senate Committee on Education

February 18, 2010

Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you for allowing me to testify in support of Senate Bill 250 this morning.

As Senator Darling has mentioned, we have proposed this legislation at the request of the K-8 Fox Point-Bayside School District. Although K-8 School Districts—such as Fox Point-Bayside—collaborate very closely with their Union High School Districts on curriculum and various services, current law treats them as if they are not affiliated with one another. Further, many students form close friendships with other students while attending K-8 schools and understandably would like to remain in a class setting with them once they reach high school.

While Open Enrollment students in K-12 Districts are given preferential treatment for Open Enrollment seats available in the high school within their District, K-8 students are not afforded the same opportunity. Therefore, this proposal would simply allow Open Enrollment students from K-8 Districts equal preference to enter the UHS School District if the UHS School District determines that there are Open Enrollment seats available. As Senator Darling mentioned, an open enrollment student who graduates from Bayside Middle School should not have to compete with students from other districts to enter Nicolet UHS. This is a small, yet commonsense, change that simply brings fairness to students and families within K-8 Districts.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you once again for allowing me to testify on this proposal in front of you today. As the lead Assembly sponsor, I appreciate your consideration of this simple change.



FOX POINT-BAYSIDE

SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Valuable Education. An Education With Values.

Gary W. Petersen, Ed.D, District Administrator
7300 N. Lombardy Road
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53217
Phone: 414-247-4167
Fax: 414-351-7164
gpetersen@foxbay.k12.wi.us

February 18, 2010

Dear Members of the Committee on Education,

Approximately four years ago I became aware of a problem that Open Enrollment students who are attending the Fox Point-Bayside School District are experiencing at the conclusion of their eighth grade year. Under the current Open Enrollment laws in the state of Wisconsin, K-8 school districts like the Fox Point-Bayside School District and union high school districts like Nicolet Union High School District are treated as though they have no affiliation. Resident and Chapter 220 students who graduate from our Bayside Middle School are given the choice to enroll at Nicolet UHS. In the case of our Open Enrollment students who are preparing to go to high school during their eighth grade year, their parents learn that they must apply for a limited number of Open Enrollment seats at Nicolet. If they apply under the Open Enrollment law to the Nicolet Union High School District, they are treated as though they were coming from any other school district in the state of Wisconsin and must participate in a random selection process that does not give them any preference for available seats.

As Superintendent of Schools for the Fox Point-Bayside School District, I have had numerous parents of Open Enrollment students who attend our schools come to me with concerns about their children's very slim chance of attending Nicolet Union High School. The Fox Point-Bayside Schools work very closely with Nicolet High School because the majority of our students will be attending Nicolet after they graduate from our middle school. Open enrollment students who graduate from our middle school have been prepared with the same rigorous curriculum, have developed close relationships with their peers and have had numerous experiences which have prepared them to have a successful high school career at Nicolet High School.

I ask that the committee support the change in the Open Enrollment statute that has been introduced by Senators Darling and Kedzie and cosponsored by Representatives Pasch, Nass and Townsend. The proposed change in the law will allow Open Enrollment students from K-8 districts which are affiliated with a union high school district to be given preference under the law for available Open Enrollment seats in the union high school district. The current law already gives preference to pupils and to siblings of pupils who are already attending a nonresident district in a random selection process. The change in the law would extend this preference in a random selection process to Open Enrollment students in a K-8 district who desire to continue their education in the affiliated union high school district. I believe that this change will be of great benefit to Open Enrollment students and their families and should be supported by the Committee on Education.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Petersen, Ed.D.
District Administrator
Fox Point-Bayside Schools

UNION GROVE UNION HIGH SCHOOL

3433 South Colony Avenue
Union Grove, WI 53182

Alan J. Mollerskov
Superintendent

Thomas J. Hermann
High School Principal

Stacy K. Mortensen
Assistant Principal

Kurt Jorgensen
Director of Operations
& Facilities

David Pettit
Athletic Director

February 17, 2010

Senator John Lehman
310 South, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

Senator John Lehman,

Good morning,

I am extremely sorry that I cannot attend the Education Committee Hearing on Friday, February 18, regarding SB-250 (Open Enrollment). We are very concerned about future considerations for accepting Open Enrollment students into our school.

Currently we have an enrollment of 860 students and we do accept almost every application request for Open Enrollment. This current school year we have 150 Open Enrollment students coming in and 22 Open Enrollment students going out for a net gain of 128 students. As we reach our capacity of 950-1000 students we will have to limit the number of Open Enrollment students accepted each year. Being a Union High School we cannot, under current state regulations, give preference to those students that have been attending one of our four feeder schools (Union Grove Elementary Jt. 1, Yorkville Jt. 2, Raymond Jt. 14, and Dover #1 (Kansasville School) under Open Enrollment. We feel that students attending one of our feeder schools should be given preference after siblings and should not have to be tossed into a "random draw" because of limited seats.

Please support this request as SB-250 moves through the hearing process.

Sincerely,



Alan J. Mollerskov
District Administrator
Union Grove Union High School

District Office
Tel: (262) 878-4427
Fax: (262) 878-3291

High School Office
Tel: (262) 878-2434
Fax: (262) 878-4056